



## **Rocky Mountain Geographic Area – Predictive Services**

**Daily 7-Day Weather / Fire Potential Outlook Discussion**  
**Wednesday, 30 March 2022**

### **Yesterday's Recap/Current Fire Weather as of 0700 MDT**

(This section will provide a short weather summary from the previous day. A brief discussion and graphics will also highlight current fire weather observations and fire activity.)

**View the current fire weather forecast, click this link: [7-Day Fire Weather Outlook Maps](#)**

### **Forecast for TODAY through SUNDAY**

The deep trough gradually moves east of the Rocky Mountain Area by Friday and a weak ridge of high pressure begins to build over the Desert Southwest through the weekend. A couple of disturbances embedded in the west to northwesterly flow aloft will keep temperatures seasonably cooler area-wide. Breezy conditions and weak frontal passages are expected across Wyoming and the plains Friday and Sunday, along with a few periods of isolated mountain thunderstorms and widely scattered showers across the area.

### **Outlook for MONDAY and TUESDAY**

A ridge of high pressure over the Great Basin shifts east over the RMA as a potent trough of low pressure along the West Coast moves inland over northern California and the Pacific Northwest. Overall, drier and warmer conditions are anticipated early next week. However, very strong winds aloft are expected ahead of the trough as it approaches the area and moves across the Rocky Mountains. Models currently suggest a strong downslope flow with westerly winds gusting up to 50 mph across portions of southeast Wyoming and the Front Range Tuesday, with the winds becoming northwesterly and remaining strong and gusty across the High Plains on Wednesday next week.

**Current NWS Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watch information can be found at: <https://www.weather.gov/fire/>**

## **Fuels and Fire Potential Discussion**

Early spring weather systems continue to bring precipitation to the RMA. However, southwest Wyoming, the Western Slope in Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota continue to show deficits in precipitation within the last 30 days. Snowpack continues to decline across the mountains in northwest Wyoming as well.

Expectations are that seasonal temperatures and residual snow cover will continue to keep significant fire potential low in most areas west of the Divide through the end of March and early April. Lower elevation sites across southwest Colorado and most areas east of the Divide will continue to warm up and fine fuels are expected to display more of a mosaic in green-up conditions.

The introduction of springtime thunderstorms may briefly elevate the significant fire potential as more lightning ignitions will be possible given the warmer temps and the persistence of dry/receptive fuel beds.

Even though there have been temporary improvements across northeast Colorado, the Pike NF, and areas south of the Palmer Divide with recent precipitation events, **ERCs remain above the 90th percentile at some sites**. Areas of dry, dormant fuels persist across southeastern Colorado, western Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The fine fuels in many of the aforementioned areas are not compacted but remain standing/vertically oriented due to lack of snow cover.

Significant fire potential in many areas east of the Divide will remain in **low to moderate risk** as we move into the first few weeks of April. **Periods of high risk** will also be likely with any warmer, downslope wind events.

**For the most current daily ERC Percentile Trend Map, please go to:**  
**<https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/predictive/outlook/ercmap.png>**